

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-39 are presently active in this case, Claims 33 and 34 withdrawn from consideration, Claims 1, 5, 10, 21, 28 and 30 amended, and Claims 8, 12 and 27 canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the publication titled *Immersion Lithography At 157 nm* to Switkes et al.; Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Switkes et al. in view of the publication titled *Liquid Immersion Deep-Ultraviolet Interferrometric Lithography* to Hoffnagle et al.; Claims 22-26, 30, 32 and 35-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Switkes et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0007567 to Pierrat et al.; Claims 2-4 were allowed and Claims 6, 8, 12-15, 17, 27-29 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Davis for allowance of Claims 2-4 and the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 6, 8, 12-15, 17, 27-29 and 31. Applicants have now amended each of the independent claims to include what is believed to be allowable subject matter based on the objected to claims.

Specifically, Applicants' Claim 1 has been amended to include the entire subject matter of allowable Claim 8. Thus independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the drying fluid includes alcohol. Although allowable Claim 6 recited that the drying fluid included isopropyl alcohol, Applicants' specification as originally filed indicates that the drying fluid can include an alcohol such as

isopropyl alcohol.¹ The cited reference to Switkes et al. discloses using a Fomblin PFS-1 rinse, which is a low molecular weight PFPE solvent, to remove the emergent fluid. Thus, Switkes et al. does not disclose use of a drying fluid including an alcohol as required by Claim 5. The remaining cited references are not cited for teaching a drying fluid and do not correct the deficiencies of Switkes et al. Therefore, Claim 5 patentably defines over the cited references.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the entire subject matter of allowable Claim 12. Therefore Claim 10 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 27. Therefore, Claim 21 is also in condition for allowance.

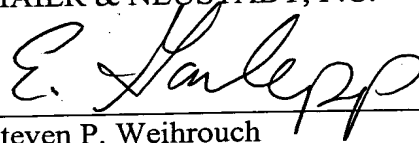
For the reasons discussed above, Applicants' independent Claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 21 patentably define over the cited references. As these claims patentably define over the cited references, the remaining pending dependent claims in this case (i.e., Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11, 14-20, 22-26, 28-32 and 35-39) also patentably define over the cited references.

¹ See Applicants' specification at page 42.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
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